

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Does this mean that the user could turn off the switch that enables the blocker? If that is the case then what is the point of the blocker? I am very skeptical of this comment that it would not affect legitimate copying.

By whose definition of legitimate?

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? Either it blocks the ability to copy and distribute or it does not block. If it blocks that is bad.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

I say "show me". Part of the reason manufacturer's change things is to build in obsolescence so that the consumer must purchase the latest and greatest. That is part of marketing. That is why automobile manufacturers only support parts for the cars for 10 years or less. Both of my vehicles are older than 10 years and it gets more difficult each year to buy parts.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Any capability that limits what you can do does not grant you "new options". It takes away current capability.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

You add a gadget or capability, you charge more for it. Again this is simple marketing. Remember pet rocks? You take a stone, put it in a fancy box and you charge a ridiculous amount of money for a stone one can find in the park or on a street.

Other Comments:

Currently the music and movie industry charge \$10-\$20 for an optically read disk that costs about a nickel to manufacture. The price we pay include the costs of making the original movie which the industry recovered the first time the product was released.

Likewise the cost of a TV program is recovered by the advertising or Cable or Satellite fees one pays. To date the broadcast industry has not reimbursed the public for the use of the airways. Isn't it fair to expect them to do so? How to do that is a burdensome and expensive thing. Let's just make it simple. If you use the airways, then you recover your costs prior to the broadcast. Non-public use of things sent over the airways is not too much to ask of an industry which is subsidized with essentially free access to the broadcast spectrums, be they radio, tv or satellite.